

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend Claims 1-18 as follows and add Claims 11-20:

1. (Currently Amended) A hinge, preferably for furniture, comprising a moveable hinge section (3) and a hinge section (2) consisting of a fixed stop section, which are interconnected by at least one joint axis (7), and

comprising a damping device (16) mounted on one of the hinge sections whose translationally or rotatably moveable damping member is acted upon at least in the closure region of the hinge via gear means from the other hinge section, wherein

~~characterised in that~~ for adjustment of the moveable damping member depending on the tilt of the moveable hinge section (3) relative to the at least one joint axis (7), there is provided at least three moveable gear members (20, 22, 27), of which one is the damping member (19) itself.

2. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the damping device is a rotation damper (16) whose damping member (19) carries a pinion (20).

3. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a central member of the gear members (22) is rotatably supported on an axis (6) on one of the hinge sections (2) and consists of two engaging pieces (33, 23; 21, 23) arranged concentrically to the axis (6), having larger and smaller lever arms with respect to the axis (6) wherein the engaging

piece (23) having the larger lever arm can be brought into engagement with a damper-side gear member (20) and the engaging piece (33, 21) having the smaller lever arm can be brought into engagement with a gear member (27) on the hinge section side.

4. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the central gear member (22) supported on an axis of a hinge section consists of two toothed segments (21, 23) curved concentrically with respect to the axis having larger and smaller radii, of which the toothed segment (23) having the larger radius meshes with the pinion (20) of the rotation damper (16) and the toothed segment (21) having the smaller radius meshes with a toothed segment (27) whose swivel movement is derived from one of the hinge sections.

5. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~claims 2 and 3~~ characterised in that, wherein the engaging piece (23) with the larger lever arm has a toothed profile (23) curved concentrically with respect to the axis (6), which is engaged with the pinion (20) of the rotation damper and the engaging piece (33) with the smaller lever arm has a fork-shaped engaging recess (33) or engaging projection which can be brought into engagement with an engaging projection or an engaging recess of the gear member (27) on the hinge section side.

6. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein in a double-joint hinge (1) the central gear member (22) is supported on a fixed axis of the fixed hinge section (2) and the

engaging piece (21) with the smaller lever arm meshes with an engaging segment (27) of the gear member on the hinge section side which is connected to one of the connecting rods (5).

7. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the central gear member (22) is mounted on the fixed joint axis (6) of one of the connecting rods (4) and the engaging piece (21, 33) with the smaller lever arm engages with an engaging segment (27) which is connected to the other connecting rod (5).

8. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that~~ wherein the central gear member (22) with two toothed segments is symmetrical to a diameter plane (24) which runs through the ~~centre~~ center of the two toothed segments (21, 23).

9. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that~~ wherein it is provided with closing device (11, 12) which overcomes the damping force.

10. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that~~ wherein one gear member (27; 37; 45) on the hinge section side is rotatably mounted about an axis (7; 60) on the hinge section (2) to which the damping device (16) is affixed and has an engaging piece (37;48) which meshes with an engaging piece (21;33) of the central gear member (22), wherein the engaging piece (27; 37; 48) of the gear member on the hinge section side has a larger lever arm to its axis (7;60) than the engaging piece of the central gear member (22) has to its axis (6; 61).

11. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that~~ wherein there is provided a gear member on the hinge section side (27, 37) rigidly connected to a connecting rod (5) which connects the two hinge sections (2, 3).

12. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that~~ wherein there is provided a separate gear member (51) on the hinge section side which is rotatably supported about an axis (60) in the hinge section (2) to which the damping device (16) is affixed and on the one hand can be brought into engagement with the central gear member (22) and on the other hand with the respectively other hinge section (3).

13. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gear member on the hinge section side (51) has an engaging projection which projects in the open position of the hinge into the swivel path of the hinge section (3) and on closure of the hinge is actuated by the hinge section (3).

14. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 13, characterised in that~~ wherein a pre-stressing device, especially a spring (58) is provided to pre-stress the damping device in a position corresponding to the open position of the hinge, and preferably acts upon the central gear member and/or the gear member on the hinge section side (22, 45).

15. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 14, characterised in that~~ wherein the damping device (16) and/or the gear members (22, 45) are affixed to a hinge section constructed as a hinge cup and are covered by a flange of the hinge cup.

16. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the damping device (16) and/or the gear members (20, 22, 27) have an axis of movement parallel to the at least one joint axis (7) of the hinge sections (2, 3).

17. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 15, characterised in that~~ wherein the damping device (16) and/or the gear members (20, 22, 45) have axes of movement (60, 61) perpendicular to a joint axis (7) of the hinge sections (2, 3).

18. (Currently amended) The hinge according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the damping device (16) has a plurality of damping members which are actuated by a common engaging piece (23) of a gear member (22).

19. (New) The hinge according to claim 2, wherein a central member of the gear members (22) is rotatably supported on an axis (6) on one of the hinge sections (2) and consists of two engaging pieces (33, 23; 21, 23) arranged concentrically to the axis (6), having larger and smaller lever arms with respect to the axis (6) wherein the engaging piece (23) having the larger lever arm can be brought into engagement with a damper-side gear member (20) and the engaging piece (33, 21) having the smaller lever arm can be brought into engagement with a gear member (27) on the hinge section side.

20. (New) The hinge according to claim 19, wherein the central gear member (22) supported on an axis of a hinge section consists of two toothed segments (21, 23) curved concentrically with respect to the axis having larger and smaller radii, of which the toothed segment (23) having the larger radius meshes with the pinion (20) of the rotation damper (16) and the toothed segment (21) having the smaller radius meshes with a toothed segment (27) whose swivel movement is derived from one of the hinge sections.